

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR PINT TPHY CH

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF AUGUST 12 PEKING DAILY

1. THE AUGUST 12 PEKING DAILY CARRIES AMIDST A NUMBER OF INSPIRATIONAL ARTICLES ON POST-EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITIES IN THE "FORGET FAMILY, HELP CLASS BROTHERS" GENRE A SHORT COLUMN ENTITLED "KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EARTHQUAKES." REFUTING THE NOTION THAT WHOLE AREAS CAN BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE EARTH DURING QUAKES, THE ARTICLE CITES THE CASE OF A JULY 12, 1720 EARTHQUAKE REGISTERING 6.75 WHICH HIT SHA-CH'ENG OUTSIDE PEKING. AT THE TIME AN "IMPERIALIST MISSIONARY" FABRICATED THE LIE THAT THE RESIDENTS AND FLOURISHING COMMERCE OF SHA-CH'ENG HAD SUNK INTO THE EARTH. THE ARTICLE ADDS TARTLY THAT SUCH AN EVENT--CONTRARY TO OBJECTIVE LAWS OF NATURE--WAS NEVER RECORDED IN CHINA'S HISTORIES, AND SHA-CH'ENG STILL EXISTS TODAY. COMMENT: PEKING'S RESIDENTS DOUBTLESS HAVE BEEN PERPLEXED BY CONFLICTING SIGNALS FROM THEIR AUTHORITIES ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT, AND PARTICULARLY BY THE ORDER TO REMAIN OUTDOORS VIGILANT AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER QUAKE. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE RUMOR MILL HAS PROBABLY GENERATED A NUMBER OF SCARE STORIES OF THE "SWALLOWED UP INTO THE EARTH" TYPE.

2. THE ISSUE ALSO PUBLISHED A 1-1/2 PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "SELECTED CRITICISMS OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S 'SEVERAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING SPEEDING UP OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.'" EXCERPTS FROM THAT PROGRAM ARE FOLLOWED BY CRITICISMS WRITTEN AND EDITED BY THE

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WORKER-THEORIST TEM OF THE SPECIAL STEEL COMPANY (T'E-SHU

KANG KUNG-SSU) AND THE PEKING DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD RESPECTIVELY.
COMMENT: WHILE THE SUBJECT MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY
IN OPEN MEDIA, EXTENSIVE DIRECT QUOTATIONS HAVE NOT BEE PUBLISHED
TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE ENTIRE ARTICLE
BE TRANSLATED AND DISSEMINATED WITH APPROPRIATE CONTROLS.

3. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.
GATES

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